

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Tadamitsu KISHIMOTO, *et al.*

Title: CHRONIC RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS THERAPY CONTAINING IL-6 ANTAGONIST AS EFFECTIVE COMPONENT

Appl. No.: Divisional Application of U.S. Serial No. 09/233,474,
Filed January 20, 1999

Filed January 9, 2001

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before action is taken by the Examiner, please amend the captioned application as follows.

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the following sentence:

- -The application is a divisional of application Serial No. 09/233,474, filed January 20, 1999, which is a divisional of application Serial No. 08/817,084, filed April 7, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 5,888,510 issued March 30, 1999, which is a national stage of PCT/JP95/01144, filed June 7, 1995, and a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 08/971,997, filed February 21, 1997, now abandoned, which is a continuation of Serial No. 08/268,520, filed June 30, 1994, now abandoned.- -

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-8 without prejudice or disclaimer and add the following new claims.

9. **(New)** A method for inhibiting synovial cell growth, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutical composition comprising a monoclonal antibody PM-1 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

10. **(New)** The method according to claim 9, wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody PM-1.

11. **(New)** The method according to claim 9, wherein the patient is a human.

12. **(New)** The method according to claim 11, wherein the antibody is administered in four divided doses from about 1 to 1000 mg.

13. **(New)** The method of treating chronic rheumatoid arthritis, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a pharmaceutical composition comprising a monoclonal antibody PM-1 and a physiologically acceptable carrier.

14. **(New)** The method according to claim 13, wherein the antibody suppresses abnormal growth of synovial cells.

15. **(New)** The method according to claim 13, wherein the antibody is a humanized antibody PM-1.

16. **(New)** The method according to claim 13, wherein the patient is a human.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the antibody is administered in four divided doses from about 1 to 1000 mg.

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment, claims 9-17 are pending in the captioned application. An office action on the merits is now awaited. Should there be any questions, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

By


Harold C. Wegner
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 25,258

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FOLEY & LARDNER
Washington Harbour
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20007-5109
Telephone: (202) 672-5571
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399